

Los Alamos

NATIONAL LABORATORY

Business Operations Division

BUS-5-3

Mail Stop P274

Los Alamos, NM 87545

(505)667-6081, FAX 665-6202

February 20, 1996

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL C6939RFP6-3X
ACCELERATED STRATEGIC COMPUTING INITIATIVE (ASCI)**

PROPOSAL DUE DATE: 4:00 PM Mountain Standard Time, March 26, 1996

The Regents of the University of California, a constitutional corporation and instrumentality of the State of California, hereinafter called "University", have entered into Contract W-7405-ENG-36, as amended, with the United States of America, hereinafter called "Government", represented by the Department of Energy, hereinafter called "DOE", for performance of research and development work at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, hereinafter called "University" or "Laboratory".

You are invited to submit a proposal to produce the next generation of very high performance computing capability: Tera-scale computing. This solicitation is a joint Los Alamos National Laboratory and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory effort that is part of the DOE Accelerated Strategic Computing Initiative (ASCI) of the Stockpile Stewardship Program. Because of the US commitment to ending underground nuclear testing, dramatic advances in computer technology are required to make virtual testing and prototyping viable alternatives to traditional nuclear and non-nuclear test-based methods. The successful offeror shall be required to develop and accelerate delivery of a system capable of meeting TeraFLOP/s performance on a scalable cluster of shared memory multi-processors (SMPs). The ASCI requirements are described in Attachment 2, Statement of Work, of the Request for Proposal (RFP). This letter provides only a summary of the salient elements of the solicitation and, in the event of any conflict between this letter and the RFP, the RFP will prevail.

The University anticipates the award of a Firm Fixed-Price type of subcontract for a period of four (4) years. The specific requirements for this procurement, including the technical nature of the work and a model subcontract, are set forth in Attachments 1 through 8. Instructions for preparation of offerors' proposals are set forth in Attachment 3, Proposal Preparation Instructions, and should be rigorously followed. Failure to follow these instructions may result in rejection of a firm's proposal. It is particularly important that offerors not mix any pricing information in with their technical proposals.

1. Subcontractor Responsibility for Subcontract

Any resultant subcontract will be funded based on annual fiscal year appropriations. In no event will the requirements contained in the SOW be divided between two separate subcontractors. While joint or collaborative proposals will be accepted, single Subcontractor responsibility and single Subcontractor point-of-contact is required for any resultant subcontract.

2. Multiple Awards

The University anticipates funding will be available for one (1) award as a result of this solicitation. However, should additional funding become available, the University reserves the right to issue two (2) separate subcontracts, each for the total scope of the Statement of Work (SOW). In such event, one contract will be issued by Los Alamos National Laboratory and a second contract will be issued, using the same terms and conditions (with the exception of certain site-specific security access requirements), by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The second subcontract would be awarded to a different subcontractor than the subcontractor who is selected for the first contract. Factors which will have a bearing on whether a second subcontract might be issued include availability of funding and the nature of the Technical Excellence of the proposals received. The issuance of a second subcontract shall be at the sole discretion of the University. Your attention is directed to Attachment 4, Evaluation Criteria.

3. University Point of Contact

The University point of contact for all matters pertaining to this solicitation is Jane Beck, Senior Contract Administrator, (505) 667-6081. Offerors shall direct all oral and written communications regarding this solicitation to the above named individual. This includes any perceived need for clarifications regarding the technical requirements of the solicitation. Direct communications with the University technical representative or Government sponsor of the requirement, other than through the University Contract Administrator, may result in the elimination of your proposal from consideration.

All questions regarding this solicitation must be submitted in writing to the University Contract Administrator no later than March 5, 1996. All correspondence should be sent to the following address:

Los Alamos National Laboratory
Attn: Jane Beck
P.O. Box 1663, MS P274
Los Alamos, NM 87545

Facsimile correspondence will be accepted at (505) 665-6202, however, it must be followed by an original letter to the above address. Answers to all relevant questions, without identification of the requester, will be provided to all offerors.

4. Solicitation Amendments

The only method by which any term of the RFP may be modified is by an express, formal amendment to the solicitation generated by the Contract Administrator. No other communication made during any discussions, whether oral or written, will modify or supersede the terms of this RFP. Receipt of an amendment to this solicitation must be acknowledged in accordance with the solicitation provision "Acknowledgment of Amendments to Solicitations"

5. Benchmarks

The benchmark suite referenced in Section 5.3 of the Statement of Work can be obtained via the Internet at **http://www.llnl.gov/asci_benchmarks/asci** If you have already read the on-line benchmarks please re-check the above address to ensure you are using the official version. Benchmark questions only may be submitted via electronic mail to **asci-bench@lanl.gov**. Benchmark questions may also be submitted by letter. Answers to benchmark questions, without identification of the requester, will be provided to all offerors by letter. They will also be posted in the "Questions" location on the Web. Please note that two benchmark codes, PCTH and DSBENCH, require the execution of a Non-Disclosure Agreement before access can be authorized. If your company has previously executed an agreement for these codes for the ASCI procurement, no further action is required.

6. Proposal Submittal Instructions

Proposals are due no later than **4:00 Mountain Standard Time, March 26, 1996** Please note that, due to programmatic requirements, and the fact that a draft statement of work was previously issued, the University does not anticipate extending the proposal due date identified above.

Proposal submissions sent via the U S Postal Service should be addressed as follows:

Los Alamos National Laboratory
Attn: Jane Beck
P.O. Box 1663, MS P274
Los Alamos, NM 87545

Proposal submissions sent via other delivery services (such as UPS, Federal Express, Airborne, etc.) should be addressed as follows:

Los Alamos National Laboratory
Attn: Jane Beck, MS P274, DDP 25U
TA-3, Bldg. SM-30, Bikini Atoll Road
Los Alamos, NM 87545

Proposals that are handcarried should be delivered to BUS-5, Team 3, Complex Subcontracts Team, on the first floor of Building SM-261, Technical Area 3 (Otowi Building) at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Offerors electing to handcarry proposals will be responsible for delivery of their proposal to BUS-5 by the proposal due date and time. DO NOT HANDCARRY PACKAGES TO TA-3, BUILDING SM-30.

PROPOSALS SUBMITTED VIA FACSIMILE (FAX), ELECTRONIC MAIL, OR VIA THE INTERNET SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

7. Late Proposals

Your attention is directed to Attachment 5 entitled "Late Submissions, Modifications, and Withdrawals of Proposals.

8. Proposal Validity

All proposals are required to be valid for no less than 180 days after the proposal due date.

9. Acceptance of Terms and Conditions

Offeror shall indicate its willingness to accept the terms and conditions of ~~the~~ MODEL SUBCONTRACT, including the GENERAL PROVISIONS. The offeror may separately list and comment in its proposal on any of the terms and conditions of ~~the~~ MODEL SUBCONTRACT but acceptance of the terms and conditions must be unconditional for the proposal to be determined responsive. Many of the University's terms and conditions are required by ~~Prime~~ Contract with DOE and their modification would result in significant unacceptable delays in the University's ability to award a subcontract. Accordingly, the University does not intend to make significant or substantial modifications to the terms and conditions.

10. Security Clearances

Some work performed under this subcontract may be performed in a security area or require access to classified information. All personnel intended to engage in work in a security area or with classified information shall eventually possess a DOE "L" or "Q" type access authorization. The type of access authorization required ("L" or "Q") shall be determined by the University. Be advised that to obtain a DOE "L" or "Q" access authorization, an in depth background check and detailed personal information is required. Any Subcontractor employee whose work assignment would require access but who cannot obtain a DOE "L" or "Q" access authorization shall be removed from performing such work under this subcontract. The Subcontractor shall comply with all DOE and University security regulations.

11. Foreign Ownership, Control or Influence

The Applications Development Assistance identified in the SOW may require access to classified information, unescorted entry to security areas, access to special nuclear materials (SNM) or generation of classified matter. Should any of the above circumstances occur, the University will be required to obtain a disclosure of any foreign ownership, control or influence (FOCI) over the proposed Subcontractor and approval from the Department of Energy. Consequently, it is requested that offerors provide the additional information and certifications concerning foreign ownership, control and influence contained in Attachment 6 of this solicitation.

12. Proposal Evaluators Other Than University Employees

The University reserves the right to use other than University personnel in evaluating proposals.

13. Acknowledgment Of Amendments To Solicitation

Offerors shall acknowledge receipt of any amendment to this solicitation:

- (a) By signing and returning the amendment;
- (b) By identifying the amendment number and date when submitting an offer; or
- (c) By letter.

The University must receive the acknowledgment by the time specified for receipt of offers.

14. Supplemental Information

Supplemental information, furnished after the time and date specified in section 5 above for receipt of proposals, will not be considered unless such supplemental information has been formally requested by the University.

The University may request an offeror to furnish such supplementary information as is sufficient, in the opinion of the University, to assure the University that the Offeror's technical competence, business and technical organization, plant facilities, and financial resources are adequate to successfully perform the contemplated work.

15. Acceptance or Rejection of Proposals

The University reserves the right without qualification to reject any or all proposals, and to waive any proposal informalities or minor irregularities.

16. News Releases

News or other information releases pertaining to this RFP shall not be made without prior written approval from the University Contract Administrator.

17. Pre-Award On-Site Equal Opportunity Compliance Review

An award of the amount of \$1,000,000 or more will not be made under this solicitation unless the Subcontractor and each of its known first tier subcontractors (to whom it intends to award a subcontract of \$1,000,000 or more) are found, on the basis of a compliance review, to be able to comply with the provisions of the Equal Opportunity article of this solicitation. To expedite completion of compliance reviews, the following information is required: (1) name and phone number of contact persons concerning Equal Opportunity Compliance; (2) information about whether the Subcontractor and first tier subcontractors have previously held any Government contracts or subcontracts; and (3) information about whether the Subcontractor has previously filed Employer Information Report SF-100. This information should be included in the Administrative Proposal volume.

18. Subcontracting Plan

The Offeror shall submit a subcontracting plan with your proposal which addresses subcontracting plans with small business concerns and with small disadvantaged business concerns. Plans will be reviewed for adequacy in accordance with General Provisions Clause 39 - Small Business and Small Disadvantaged Business Subcontracting Plan and are subject to negotiation. The final plan shall be included in and made a part of any resulting Subcontract. Failure to submit an acceptable subcontracting plan within the time specified by the University shall make the proposal ineligible for award of a subcontract.

19. Expenses Related To Subcontractor Submissions

This RFP does not commit the University to pay any costs incurred in the submission of any proposal or in making any necessary studies, designs for the preparation thereof or to acquire or subcontract for any services. The University reserves the right to cancel this RFP at any time prior to an award.

20. Disposition Of Proposals

Proposals or portions thereof will not be returned. All proposals not otherwise retained by the University for official purposes will be destroyed.

21. Award Without Discussions

You are cautioned that the University anticipates selecting the successful offeror or offerors on the basis of initial proposals without discussions with offerors. Therefore, your proposal should initially include the most favorable terms, from a price and technical standpoint, that you can offer. The University reserves the right, without qualification, to negotiate with the successful offeror(s).

For your convenience, this solicitation is also available on the Internet at the following location: **http://www.llnl.gov/asci_rfp/** Should any inconsistencies exist between the hardcopy Request for Proposal and the electronic documents located on the Web, the hardcopy form of the Request for Proposal contained herein shall take precedence.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 505-667-6081.

Sincerely,

Jane Beck
Senior Contract Administrator

Attachments

1. Model Subcontract (Form 7000); and
General Provisions Form 7500, Sections A, B, and C
2. Statement of Work dated February 12, 1996
3. Proposal Preparation Instructions
4. Evaluation Criteria
5. Late Submissions, Modifications, and Withdrawals of Proposals
6. Foreign Ownership, Control, or Influence Over Subcontractor Package
7. Small Business and Small Disadvantaged Business Subcontracting Certifications, Form 826;
and
Small Business and Small Disadvantaged Business Subcontracting Plan format, Form 993
8. Representations and Certifications which includes:
Representations and Certifications Form 2002
Additional Representations and Certifications, Form 2002A; and
Offer Form